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ASHBACK

erving the Past for the Future

e 51 February 2001 Number 1

FLASHBACK *published occasionally by the*

Washington County Historical Society

Fayetteville, Arkansas

Number 1 March 1951

Society Holds Its First Meeting

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Rev. G. W. Thompson, retired Cumberland Presbyterian minister of Fayetteville, spoke on "Pioneer Schools". Mr. Alvin Seamster, mayor of Bentonville, recited some interesting facts about Washington County history and showed several family heirlooms and historic relics. Judge T.[illegible] Humphreys of Fayetteville spoke briefly, in a reminiscent vein. Mrs. Read introduced the hostesses for the initial meeting -- Miss Lorraine Williams, Mrs. George B. Stuart, Mrs.Mertye McIlroy Bagby, Mrs. Roberta Fulbright, Mrs. Amanda Stone Hilton, Mrs.Tom Feathers, Mrs. J.K.Gregory, and Mrs.W.J.Lemke.

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Miss Ida Gregg
Mrs. P. R. Green
J. Fay Reed
Miss Kate Davenport
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Mrs. J. H. Field
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Mrs. Jay Fulbright
Lyle Bryan
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Flashback, preserving the
past for the future

Washington County Historical Society

118 East Dickson Street, Fayetteville, AR 72701

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Membership is invited of those interested in preservation of Washington County's history. Dues are $15/$25 annually. Donations, tax deductible according to current law, are gratefully received any time for special projects. Members are mailed Flashback every quarter. Past issues cost $5 each, current year's issues, $4 each.

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Cover Photo: Reproduction of the first page of the first edition of Flashback, Number 1, March 1, 1951.

FLASHBACK

Preserving the Past for the Future

Volume 51 February 2001 Number 1

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Distinguished citizen award

Lois N. Miller and Ann Sugg were honored as the Distinguished Citizens of the Year by the Washington County Historical Society for the year 2000.

The awards were presented at the Society's annual luncheon meeting last year.

Miller has taken genealogical courses at several universities and institutions and is a member of the Northwest Arkansas Genealogical Society, the Genealogical Society of Southern Illinois and the National Genealogical Society. She has researched, compiled and published many Washington County records, which are in demand for research by individuals and libraries nationwide. She volunteered for the Fayetteville Public Library, served on the Board of Directors of the Washington County Historical Society and held the office of corresponding secretary for the Society.

Sugg has worked to preserve the history and historic structures of Washington County and is a founding member of the Friends of Lake Wedington, a group that has helped restore buildings at the park. She also worked with Margaret Carter Whillock to establish the Fayetteville Creative School and served on the Board of Directors for the Washington County Historical Society for 10 years. She was president of the Society from 1995 to 1997 and helped develop a long-range strategic plan for the organization. In 1999, she was runner-up for the Bootstrap Award, part of the Annual Henry Awards presented by the Arkansas Department of Tourism.

A Flashback Flashback

On this, the Washington County Historical Society's 50th anniversary, it seemed appropriate that we look back at the first years of Flashback, the Society's awarding winning publication. The idea was to reprint some of the more memorable articles from the publication's early days. Frankly, the plan was to devote this edition to the lead articles of the 1950s publications, the next edition to the '60s and so on.

Instead, what follows are the early years of the Society as reported by W.J. Lemke, first president of our Society and legendary chairman of the Journalism Department at the University of Arkansas. There are a number of excellent and interesting articles in the early issues of this publication, and the initial plan hasn't been abandoned completely.

But what caught your new editor's eye was the first-hand accounts, often first-person accounts, of Professor Lemke. He chronicles the establishment of this Society fifty years ago, reports on his first viewing of a television show in the "spacious living room of the beautiful home of Mr. and Mrs. P.R. Green at 118 E. Dickson St.," (which we now know as Headquarters House) and relays his enthusiasm for history in general and the history of Washington County in particular.

Let me close by borrowing from and reiterating one of Professor Lemke's notes from the first edition. He "eagerly welcomed" volunteer contributions, be they short "bits" of local history or longer articles. It is as true today as it was 50 years ago.

And if you will permit me this indulgence in the tradition established by WJL of 50 years ago,

-- SVL

The following is the first article in its entirety from the first editor of Flashback, March, 1951, edition. It's followed by selected notes from the first publication.

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Mrs. S.K. Stone
Joe Bates
Mrs. Chas. H. Stone
Frank Lewis
Roy Nix
Tom Oldham
W.J. Lemke
Mrs. J.C. Futrall
Mrs. Jay Fulbright
Lyle Bryan
Hayden McIlroy
Mrs. John Mulrenin
Chester Harding
Mrs. C.B. Paddock
Frank McConnell
Green's Studio
UofA Alumni Association
Chris Manuel

Charter membership in the Washington County Historical Society is still open. Send your check for $2 to Mrs. Lessie S. Read or W.J. Lemke and your handsome membership card will be sent to you in the next mail. Any resident of Washington County who is interested in our county's romantic history is eligible, of course. We are also anxious to enroll the many former residents of Washington County who now live elsewhere. Send your check, join us in the good work, and we'll keep you posted on the Society's activities.

Not all those who attended the initial meeting filled out registration cards. Those who did sign cards were the following:

Miss Grace Albright
Mrs. Mertye McIlroy Bagby
Mr. and Mrs. Earle Bates
Mr. and Mrs. E.A. Bellis
Mr. and Mrs. Jack Carlisle
Mr. and Mrs. C.L. Coger
Mr. and Mrs. A.J. Collins
Miss Elizabeth Curry
Miss Mary Droke
Miss Lola Ellis
Mrs. R.E. Ellis
Mr. and Mrs. Tom Feathers
Miss Tommie Beth Feather
Mrs. Joyce L. Hughes
Allan S. Humphreys
Judge T.H. Humphrey
Mrs. Ella B. Hurst
Dorsey D. Jones
Rev. Marcus Lang
Mr. and Mrs. W.J. Lemke
Mrs. A.E. Lussky
F.M. McConnell
Mrs. Dwight Moore
Mr. and Mrs. E.G. Murphy
William Myers
Mrs. C.B. Paddock

Mrs. J.H. Field
Mrs. Roberta Fulbright
Miss Rowena Galloway
Mr. and Mrs. J.K. Gregory
W.S. Gregson
Miss Ida Gregg
Mr. and Mrs. Harrison Hale
Mr. and Mrs. AA. Hamblen
Mr. and Mrs. Chester Harding
Mrs. B.F. Harper
Mrs. J.R. Hill
Mrs. John Hilton
Mr. and Mrs. LL. Hilton
Miss Jobelle Holcombe
Lyman E. Porter
Mrs. Lessie S. Read
Mr. and Mrs. J. Fay Read
Dr. Fount Richardson
Mr. and Mrs. Alvin Seamster
H.H. Strauss
Mrs. Cornelia McIlroy Stuart
Mr. and Mrs. Barnett Sure
Mr. and Mrs. J.A. Thalheimer
Rev. G.W. Thompson
Mr. and Mrs. Donald Trumbo
Miss Julia Vaulx
Miss Hattie Williams
Miss Lorraine Williams

Remembers First Broadcast over KFMQ

In my first letter (Jan. 25) announcing the revival of the Washington County Historical Society, I ran some historical "oddities" down the margin of the letter. One was this item: "Do you know that KFMQ was the first wireless in Arkansas?" This touched a reminiscent vein in Fenner Stice and he came up with this contribution to county and state history: "And did you know who broadcast the first program over KFMQ? Henry Tovey. And do you know who the announcer was? Fenner Stice. It was the first test program and we offered a box of apples free to the person sending in a card or letter from the greatest distance. I think somebody in Colorado got it. The signal was not too plain but it was corrected the next day and listeners began writing in from quite distant points."

That's the way history is recorded. Something jogs the memory of someone who knows. He tells what he knows and FLASHBACK prints it. And thus it is preserved for those who come after us.

Next Meeting Includes Museum Visit

The next meeting of the Washington County Historical Society will be held Sunday afternoon, March 18, at 2:30 p.m. in the North Reserve room of the University Library. This room is at the right when you enter the front door of the Library building. We'll have a short program and will then go downstairs and inspect the historic exhibits in the University Museum. Prof. S.C. Dellinger will explain the exhibits. Of special interest to the Society are: the Lee Rogers collection of World War I relics; the Capt. VonBerg collection of Indian scout relics; the Wade collection of dresses of long ago; the Ozark Bluff Dweller material and many others. You'll enjoy this meeting. In the Library be sure to note the several varieties of Arkansas marble (Batesville) used in the interior trim, the memorial plaques to President Futrall and to the dead of World War I, and the paintings of General Tom Hindman and General Albert Pike, the latter painted by Edward P. Washburn who also painted "The Arkansas Traveler." Mr. Marvin Miller, University librarian, has promised to have Currier and Ives prints of the "Traveler" on display. Remember the date - Sunday afternoon, March 18.

The April meeting of the Washington County Historical Society will be a pilgrimage to Evergreen Cemetery, conducted by Dr. Harrison Hale. The Society will visit the graves of former presidents of the University, as well as the graves of other men and women who played an important part in the history of Fayetteville and of the State. We'll remind you again of this meeting in our April issue.

Although the exhibits at our first meeting consisted exclusively of photographs, a number of folks brought other historic material, including books, magazines, old programs, collections of clippings, and the like. The suggestion was

made that one of our future meetings should be devoted to newspapers and other printed material.

Miss Kate Davenport submitted a booklet published in 1895 by Baum Brothers, giving the history of Baums' store from 1865 to 1895. It contains an account (with pictures) of the two disasters that destroyed the store - they cyclone of 1880 and the fire of 1894.

A valuable collection of source material about the DAR and BPWC was brought to the meeting by Miss Grace Albright. She has promised to let me examine it at a later date. And that reminds me that I had the opportunity of looking over Mrs. Harrison Hale's scrapbook containing programs, correspondence, membership lists and other material of the Leverett PTA - the first PTA organized in Arkansas.

Mrs. B. F. Harper permitted me to take home for reading her February 1913 issue of the Railroad Man's Magazine, which contains an article written by the late B.F. Harper about Carl R. Gray, at that time president of the Great Northern Railway. It gives some interesting glimpses of railroading in northwest Arkansas, including an old picture of the Fayetteville depot.

Mrs. R.E. Ellis surprised me by producing a scrapbook containing clippings of the historical drawings I made for the Southwest American some 15 years ago. And Mrs. A.A. Hamblen told me at the meeting that she has an almost complete collection of clippings of my "Ozark Moon" column of about the same date.

Miss Elizabeth Curry brought to our meeting a little folder published in 1897 that I think is unique. It contains a poem entitled "Blue-Eyed Nellie's Grave," written by J.H. Van Hoose. You can't dabble in Washington County's history very long without running across the name of J.H. Van Hoose. He was prolific writer and much of what he wrote appeared in the Fayetteville Sentinel of the 1870s. He must have been a very

old man when he wrote about "Blue-Eyed Nellie" for he came to Fayetteville in 1850. W.S. Campbell in his Fayetteville 1828-1928" has no fewer than nine references to J.H. Van Hoose. The folder in Miss Curry's possession is inscribed "Compliments of the author to Miss May Curry, Fayetteville, April 14, 1897, J.H. Van Hoose. In an early issue of Flashback I hope to publish two descriptions of Fayetteville written by Van Hoose - one in 1850, one in 1890.

I think an exhibit of early Washington County newspapers would be most interesting. Floyd Carl Jr. has a copy of an 1860 issue of the Fayetteville Democrat, almost perfectly preserved. Copies of the Sentinel of the 70s are fairly common; copies of the Fayetteville Arkansian are rare. I have yet to see a copy of the West Fork Republican of 1885, the Evansville Advocate of 1891, the Cincinnati Argus of 1897, and the Cane Hill Bugle of 1885 and News of 1900. All of these, of course, were Washington County newspapers.

My own collection contains no historic rarities, but I do have such interesting items as three issues of the X-Ray (published by University students in 1912 when practically the entire student body was on strike) and The White Mule, U of A humor magazine when Chet Lauck (Lum of "Lum and Abner") was the editor.

History as a Hobby

Last fall, at the annual convention of the Arkansas Historical Association in Arkadelphia, I spoke on "History as Hobby." Somebody must have liked that talk, because I have given it several times since then. I'll give it again on May 7 at the Springdale Rotary Club meeting. It's just an account of some of the state's romantic spots that I have visited, such as Cane Hill, Sunnyside (where the Tontitown settlers came from), Washington in Hempstead County, Arkansas Post, the sites of

such ghost towns as Davidsonville, Wittsburg, Paraclifta, Old Rondo, Dwight Mission.

Every time I have given that talk, folks have come up afterwards to tell me that their ancestors lived here or there, or that they themselves knew the spot from childhood days, and so on. It's astonishing to me how much interest there is in Arkansas history and how few the outlets for telling the old stories. Also surprising is the modesty or reticence of people whose ancestors pioneered these historic places.

Extra Copies of Flashback Are Available

Be sure to save this first issue of Flashback, because in just a few years - at the present speed of the passing years - it will be a historic curio. It may even become a collector's item. So don't give it away. If you would like one or more copies to send to friends who may be interested in our historic activity, ask for extra copies. We have them. And if you have not yet sent in your 1951 membership dues, send a check for $2 today.

Television comes to me in an Ante-Bellum Setting

The other evening I sat in the spacious living room of the beautiful home of Mr. and Mrs. P.R. Green at 118 E. Dickson Street, and saw my first television show. The reception was perfect and the entertainment - it was a Gay 90s show by Fred Waring and troupe - was delightful.

I well remember my first moving picture, "The Great Train Robbery" - the first movie, they say, that had a connected plot. I saw it in 1904. I remember the first "talkie" - Al Jolson in "The Jazz Singer" - although I had heard and seen several attempts at talking pictures (by means of phonographs behind the screen) before that. I do not remember when I heard my first radio program but it was in the Baron Muenchasuen-Joe Penner era. That, of course, was a bit late in life, but I was

buried in the hinterlands when radio made its debut.

Comes 1951 and I hear-see my first television show, in a house that was built a hundred years ago! But it wasn't the age of the Green home that made my introduction to TV memorable. In the very room in which I sat in the semi-darkness and watched the Zenith's screen, there stalked shadowy figures in the Union blue, with spaulets on their shoulders and spurs on ther books and claking sabers at the side. The TV set stood just a few feet from the door whose splintered panels are mute testimony to the marksmanship of men in Gray - Cabell's cavalrymen who on April 18, 1863, galloped down from East Mountain and attacked the Federal headquarters in this very house.

"The TV set stood just a few feet from the door whose splintered panels are mute testimony to the marksmanship of men in Gray..."

Fred Waring's glee club was singing "The Rosary." I looked over my shoulder in the darkened room. I wouldn't have been too surprised to see Colonel M. LaRue Harrison, black-bearded and stern. But it wasn't an officer in Blue who sat behind me; it was my genial host, P.R. Green. At his feet lay the big Dalmatian, covering his eyes with a paw, to hind the great technological marvel of the 1950s.

Television came to me in an 1863 setting.

--W.J. Lemke

Brief Flashes

This first issue of Flashback is pretty much a one-man job. I just didn't have time to gather material from the many sources that are available. However, I have already made five assignments, on interesting subjects, for future issues. And of

course, volunteer contributions will be eagerly welcomed - either short "bits" of local history or longer articles.

Miss Grace Albright made a good suggestion. She says there are several hundred organizations of various kinds in the county, each which has a history. She suggests that a member - preferably a long-time member - of each club, society or other organization write up its history. This would not only give us much valuable material, but would enable a lot of folks to participate in the work of the Society.

The distinctive front-page nameplate of Flashback was put in type by E.A. Bridenthal, who set his first type just 50 years ago. The printing was done by Fayetteville Printing Company, which was founded by M.W. McRoy in 1892. That will be 60 years next year and Mr. "Mack" ought to start planning now for an anniversary celebration.

(Editor's note: The following are excerpts from the second edition of Flashback, April, 1951.)

Society Holds Second Meeting

The WCHS met Sunday, March 19, in the University Library, with 54 members and guests in attendance. Mrs. Lessie Stringfellow Read presided. A constitution (printed below) was adopted. W.J. Lemke was elected president; Miss Jobelle Holcombe, vice-president; Tom Feathers, secretary-treasurer. There was an informal discussion of various matters of interest to the Society, after which Booth Campbell of Cane Hill entertained the group with an old-time ballad.

The gathering then moved downstairs to the University Museum, to inspect a number of exhibits pertaining to the history of northwest Arkansas. These included: Ozark Bluff Dwellers artifacts and burials; the Lee Rogers collection of World War I material; Civil War relics; the VonBerg Indian

Scout collection; the Henry and Wade display of early-day wedding clothes; and many other exhibits. L.E. Howard, assistant curator of the Museum, had prepared a special case containing University archives of the 70's, including several early diplomas. Marvin Miller, University librarian, had arranged for special exhibit of Currier and Ives prints of "The Arkansas Traveler" and "The Turn of the Tune," together with an oil portrait of Albert Pike painted by Edward Payson Washburn, the artist who created "The Arkansas Traveler." This painting, by the way, was a gift from Albert Pike to his friend, Judge David Walker of Fayetteville. It was presented to the Library by Judge Walker's granddaughter, Miss Sue Walker.

Board of Directors Meeting

The elective officers of the Society, together with six appointive members, constitute the Board of Directors. The appointive members are: Miss Grace Albright, Miss Mary Droke, A.S. Humphreys, F.H. McConnell, Mrs. L.S. Read and F.S. Root.

The Board of Directors met March 29 at the home of the president and discussed various activities for the Society. It was decided to have a chairman for each town and rural community in the county. The Board recommended that the Society participate in the Confederate Memorial Day observance June 3, with a visit to the Walker family graveyard and the former J.D. Walker home on the same day. Both cemeteries and the Walker house (now the home of Miss Ina Knerr) are on East Mountain.

The Board also approved publication of a guide book, "Historic Fayetteville," for benefit of members, tourists, and others. An informal discussion showed sentiment in favor of

a revival of Fayetteville's "Pioneer Week," possibly next October. Plans for pilgrimages to Prairie Grove-Cane Hill and to Springdale-Tontitown were discussed. A lengthy discussion of a local historical museum resulted in no definite action, although most Board members were in favor of such a project. The old Stone house on Center Street was suggested as a suitable location.

The Board, on behalf of the entire Society, voted to confer honorary membership on Willilam S.Campbell for his research in Washington County history and his authorship of "One Hundred Years of Fayetteville".

Upon turning the Society's membership list, records, and funds over to Secretary-Treasurer Tom Feathers, the president reported 86 paid-up members. And a cash balance of $175 in the bank. The membership list will be published in our May issue.

Constitution

I. Name. The Name of this organization is the Washington County Historical Society.

II. Members. Any person who is interested in the history of Washington County becomes a member on payment of annual dues.

III. Officers. The officers are a president, a vice-president, and a secretary-treasurer, who shall perform duties as usually associated with those offices. They shall be elected at the last regular meeting of each calendar year.

IV. Board of Directors. The elected officers, together with such other members of the Society as they shall name, will constitute a Board of Directors. It is the duty of the Board to plan programs and other activities and to conduct the affairs of the Society, subject to the approval of the entire membership.

V. Meetings. Meetings shall be held on the second Sunday

of each month and at such other times as the Board of Directors sees fit.

VI. Dues. The dues shall be $2 for each calendar year.

--WCHS--

If you receive this issue of Flashback and have not yet sent in your check for membership, please consider this an invitation to join us in our efforts to preserve Washington County's romantic history. Send your check for $2 to our secretary-treasurer, and he will mail you one of the attractive 1951 membership cards - the first in a series that we hope will prove historically valuable. You and I are enjoying the good life in Washington County because of the work of the men and women of earlier days. Let's remember them and honor them. Today is important. Yesterday is important, too. It's worth two dollars.

(The following are articles from the third edition of Flashback, May 1951.)

Springdale Featured at May Meeting of Historical Society

The history of Springdale was featured at the meeting of the Washington County Historical Society May 20 in the Student Center of the Lutheran Church. DuPree Deaver and Lockwood Searcy had worked up the history, which was presented by Mr. Deaver. As the speaker pointed out, any one division (churches, schools, government, etc.) could be made the subject of a full hour's talk. Mrs. Jobelle Holcombe introduced visitors and contributed some Springdale reminiscences of her own. Here are a few of the many interesting facts related by Mr. Deaver:

- The first train in Washington County entered Springdale on June 8, 1881.

- The first Lutheran Church in Washington County was organized in Springdale in 1879, with I.E. Reader as pastor.
- Springdale had the county's first congregation of Seventh Day Adventists in 1876.
- John P. Stafford was only 18 years old when he began publication of the Springdale News in 1887.
- J.C. Floyd, later Congressman, taught the first school, in the Joe Holcomb home.
- The famous Springdale Chautauqua was founded in 1898 by Josia Shinn. The following year it drew an estimated 10,000 people to hear William Jennings Bryant speak.
- The first cooperative in Washington County was the Fruit Growers and Shippers Co-op organized at Springdale in 1888.
- The first post office in the Springdale community was called Lynch's Prairie (1857-1866). It was just east of town. The postmaster was A.G. Gregg, who owned the farm on which the post office was located. His grandson was present at our meeting Sunday and showed the huge brass key to the first post office located in the city of Springdale.

Following Mr.Deaver's talk, there was a lively discussion of local history, which covered Springdale and other communities and in which a dozen members took part. Booth Campbell held the group's attention with his reminiscences of the old days in Cane Hill, Cincinnati, and the Indian country. "My mother told me about the removal of the Indians," he said.

The president, W.J. Lemke, introduced eight directors of the WCHS who were present, and announced plans for the Confederate Memorial Day pilgrimage to East Mountain June 3, and the Prairie Grove-Cane Hill pilgrimage tentatively set for June 24.

Society's Third Meeting is Pilgrimage to Evergreen Cemetery

The April meeting of the WCHS (Sunday the 15th) took the form of a pilgrimage to Evergreen Cemetery. A group of members and friends, numbering almost 100, visited the graves of some of the men and womn who helped make Fayetteville history during the past 123 years. Dr. Harrison Hale sketched the careers of former University staff members. Your president paid tribute to the soldiers, statements and pioneers.

The visit to Evergreen, as I told the group, was designed as an adventure in local history - as well as a tribute to the illustrious dead. We could not visit the graves of all the men and women who built our town, but we did stop at the graves of those who ranked high in the esteem of their contemporaries, as evidenced by the important position in government or their prominence in other fields.

I asked myself "What makes a man or woman great?" and I came up with this answer - "Service to fellow men." On that basis the housewives and mothers rank with legislators, doctors, builders, or others high in the business or the professions. In truth, it is usually because of the unselfish service of a woman to her family that a man is able to achieve high position. Among the public servants whose graves the WCHS visited were those of teachers like Sophia Sawyer, Gates, Buchanan and Futrall; pioneer doctors like Welch and Gregg, the Pollards and Paddocks; builders like Byrnes, Mayes and VanWinkle; jurists like Gregg; public officials like the Wilsons, Walkers, Dinsmore, Guntyer, businessmen like McIlroy and Stone, soldiers like Yell Eason, Chandler, Vandeventer and the Tidballs.

An interesting feature of our Evergreen pilgrimage was the

presence of Judge T.H. Humphreys, who had known personally most of the men who we were honoring. Judge Humphreys is our town's link between yesterday and today. I hope everybody present got the same thrill I did when the Judge said, "I knew him; he was good man." Or, "He practiced law when I was on the bench." And when we stood at "Uncle Bob" Wilson's grave, Judge Humphreys said "He was president of the Senate when I was speaker of the House - the only time both presiding officers of the General Assembly were from the same city." This unusual coincidence happened exactly 50 years ago - in 1901. And here was one of the principals in that historic event, standing at the grave of the other principal - and making the past live again for the Historical Society members.

The following article is from the August-September, 1951, issue, Number 5.

Prairie Grove-Cane Hill Pilgrimage

One of most pleasurable and profitable events yet staged by the Washington County Historical Society was the pilgrimage to Prairie Grove and Cane Hill on Sunday afternoon, August 12.

More than 150 members and guest gathered at 1:30 at Battlefield Park and heard Mrs. L.E. Maupin, president of the Prairie Grove UDC, tell the story of the battle. She included many incidents that had been told to her by her mother and grandmother. W.J. Lemke contributed some facts about the battle. He said that an excellent account of the battle appears in D.Y. Thomas' "Arkansas in War and Reconstruction." Mrs. Lessie Stringfellow Read called attention to the presence of the grand-niece of General Tom Hindman, who commanded the Confederate troops in the battle of Prairie Grove.

Many of the visitors stopped at the Prairie Grove cemetery to read the inscriptions on the Civil War Hospital marker and to see the hundred-year-old graves of Prairie Grove pioneers.

At 2:30 the Historical Society pilgrims met at the marker in Cane Hill and heard Prof. Davis Richardson sketch the history of early Cane Hill schools. Booth Campbell added information about the mills, the business buildings, and the Wilber pottery. Some of Society members from Springdale were thoughtful enough to bring a specimen of the Boonsboro pottery - a well-preserved jar bearing the Wilber imprint. It was passed around for examination.

Following the talks of the historical markers, some of the hardier souls climbed the hill to the old campus of Cane Hill College. It was quite a thrill to dig up some of the kiln-burned bricks and small shaped building-stones that had formed the foundation of the college building erected in 1850 and burned in 1864. The view from the old campus is magnificent, covering both the north (original settlement) and south ends of the hill.

"It was quite a thrill to dig up some of the kiln-burned bricks and small shaped building stones..."

The tour then went south on Highway 45, passing the McClellan home and the site of the old Indian fort, the road to Boonsboro pottery, the huge overshot wheel of the old mill, and the site of the Cane Hill Female Seminary at Clyde.

On the return to Cane Hill, everybody took advantage of Mrs. Ellen Richardson's invitation to visit her home and examine her priceless historic treasures. Mrs. Richardson is descended from the first settlers - her mother was a Buchanan. Her father was Dr. F.R. Earle, president of Cane Hill College, member of the state legislature, major in the Confederate Army.

Mrs. Richardson greeted her guests in person. She wa assisted by her sons, Dr. Fount Richardson, and Prof. Davi Richardson, in showing the historic relics and famil heirlooms that were displayed in every room of the house Among the exhibits that attracted special attention were th many daguerreotypes and photographs of Arkansa celebrities of the early days, paintings by Amanda Buchanar Earle and William Quesenbury, old books and magazines, th diary and autograph albums of Mrs. Richardson's mother, th pioneer kitchen and household utensils, the grand ol fireplace, cherry cabinets, massive four-posters, and many other things that made the past live again for our Society members.

(These reports are from Flashback Number 6, November, 1951.)

Board Plans for Annual Banquet

The board of Directors of the Washignton County Historical Society met November 20 and made plans for the first annual banquet of the Society, to be held Tuesday evening, December 18.

It was decided not to have a guest speaker at the banquet but to let each member of the Society relate his or her favorite incident from Washington County history. That should make an interesting program.

Winners of awards in the public school historical essay contest will be guests at the banquet and will receive cash prizes and certificates. The election of officers for 1952 will be another feature of the banquet. Tom Feathers was appointed to make the arrangements.

The president reported that conflicting attractions would make it difficult to hold a successful exhibit of family heirlooms and historic relics at this time. It was decided to postpone the event - to be called Romantic Yesterdays - until Spring.

The directors discussed the need for a depository for archives, such as letters, diaries, pictures, newspapers and books, that have been offered to the Society.

It was decided to have the Society's 1952 membership card carry pictures and biographical sketches (on the back) of Archibald Yell and David Walker, two of Fayetteville's noted early-day citizens. The membership cards will go on sale December 18.

Historical Pilgrimage to Springdale

A most enjoyable event for our Society was the historical pilgrimage to Springdale on October 14. Messrs. Lockwood Searcy and D.D. Deaver, Springdale members of WCHS, made the preparations for our visit, and on the day we were there, they explained the events that occurred at the old Primitive Baptist Church, the town square, and the college and Chautauqua grounds - all of which we visited.

Probably the greatest interest was shown in the historical relics that were shown in the Springdale library. Here were many old deeds, including the land grants of 1840 signed by President John Tyler; 100-year-old silhouettes and daguerreotypes; rare old newspapers and almanacs; household utensils, including flax spinning wheel, spice grinder, bellows, and candle moulds; coverlets and garments of a century ago; and many others.

Issues of six Springdale newspapers were on display, including the Enterprise, Yellow Jacket, Arkansaw

Locomotive, Courier, Democrat, and News. Mr. Searcy's unusual collection of old almanacs contained such rarities as the Family Christian Almanac of 1855, People's Almanac of 1867, Wakefield's Almanac of 1870s, as well as files of Ayers McClean's Sumers's Hostellers, and other popular almanac of the period from 1870 to 1890.

It is hard to single out items from exhibit for special mention. The primitive telephone (operated by vibration) used between the Springdale Woolen Mill and Emma Avenue, a hundred-year-old picture handkerchief, and a copy of the book, "Character Building," by "Coin" Harvey (printed at Monte Ne) - all attracted attention. ...

How About Joining Us in 1952?

Our Washington County Historical Society is winding up its first year of activity. Among our accomplishments we can cite the publication of six issues of Flashback, the holding of five public programs and three historic pilgrimages (Evergreen, Prairie Grove and Cane Hill, Springdale), an essay contest for the public schools and several talks on local history to patriotic societies and civic groups. Among our miscellaneous activities should be mentioned the dedication of the historical marker on the Rieff House and the tour of Fayetteville's historic spots by a Fayetteville high school senior class.

Most pleasing to your officers and directors has been the widespread interest shown in our efforts to seek out and preserve the history of Washington County - as demonstrated by the 176 memberships we were able to obtain.

If you read this issue of Flashback , and are not a member, how about sending your check ... It will pay your dues for next year and will entitle you to our handsome 1952 souvenir

membership card.

-- W.J. Lemke

(This article appeared in the February, 1952, issue of Flashback, Volume II, No. 1.)

Society Holds First Annual Dinner Meeting

That history can be fun was demonstrated January 15 when the member of the Washington County Historical Society gathered at the Washington Hotel in Fayetteville for our first annual dinner meeting. Every member present was given an opportunity to relate his or her favorite historical incident or personal reminiscence. These brief accounts, ranging form the serious to the hilarious, are reported by Miss Grace Albright on another page of this issue. They made mighty good listening and everybody enjoyed them.

Your president gave a report of the year's activities. These included four program meetings, three historic tours, six issues of FLASHBACK, a public school essay contest, the beginning of local genealogical research, and frequent meetings of your board of directors. He called attention to the 80th birthday (Jan. 22) of the University, and announced plans for a Maguiretown-White River tour and a visit to the Pea Ridge battlefield in Benton County on the 90th anniversary of that battle (March 8).

Your secretary-treasurer, Tom Feathers, gave his report, which showed a total of 179 memberships for the year. He reported all bills paid and a small balance in the treasury. He also showed the Society's 1952 membership card, bearing pictures of two illustrious Washington County pioneers - Archibald Yell and David Walker. At the close of dinner Secretary Feathers was able to show 47 paid-up members for

the coming year.

Miss Mary Droke, chairman of the 1951 public schoo historical essay contest, gave her report, citing the first plac winner, a history of the Harmon community that appears i this issue.

The report of the nominating committee was read by A.S Humphreys, because the committee chairman, F.S. Root, wa out of town. The report recommended re-election of th present officers. On motion by Jack Carlisle, the report wa adopted so your officers for 1952 will be W.J. Lemke president; Miss Jobelle Holcombe, vice president; Tom Feathers, secretary-treasurer. The board of directors wil enlarge from 8 to 16, in order to give other communities outside Fayetteville representation on the board.

Thanks to Miss Grace Albright, who took notes, we have a list of the people at the annual dinner of the WCHS and th anecdotes they related or the things they recalled.

Mrs. Lessie Stringfellow Read told an incident about th C.W. Washington family, who were related to the Walkers.

G.W. Thompson had an amusing anecdote about a north Arkansas will-o-the-wisp.

Booth Campbell related a Cane Hill anecdote.

Miss Grace Albright told about Samuel Gregg, veteran o the American Revolution, who walked from Alabama to Fayetteville in the 1830's when he was 80 years old.

Miss Elizabeth Curry related an anecdote about Senator and Mrs. J.D. Walker. It seems that one evening the Walkers decided to tell each other's faults. After Mrs. Walker had enumerated quite a list of her husband's faults and it came to the Senator's turn, he surprised her with, "Mary, you haven't a single damn fault that I can see."

D.D. Deaver told a Civil War incident about a group of

bushwhackers in northwest Arkansas who burned an old woman's house while she stood on a stump and shouted "Hurrah for Jeff Davis!"

Miss Rowena Gallaway told of an attempt in 1897 to bar women students from the University. She also told of the organization of the first women's club in Fayetteville. Membership was declined by a professor's wife because "her husband disapproved of women's clubs."

Dr. Fount Richardson related an interesting account of a Federal spy in northwest Arkansas during the War. Dr. Richardson saw the spy's report on a recent visit to New York and promised to try to get us a photostatic copy of the report.

J.D. Eagle spoke interestingly of the old Gunter home which he recently purchased and is now re-modeling. It was built 80 years ago by Congressman T.M. Gunter.

Mrs. Gertrude Miles recounted an incident about her illustrious kinsman, General Tom Hindman.

Tom Feathers told of the last legal hanging in Arkansas, which occurred in Fayetteville in 1913. This incident aroused quite a bit of discussion. Miss Eva Atwood of Springdale recalled that she was nursing for a family on White River at the time and that the hanged boy's mother brought his body home and buried it herself close to the place where Miss Atwood was working. Mrs. A.M. Harding contributed her recollection. It seemed the Harding family saw the mother taking he son's body out of town and were depressed by the pitiful sight for weeks afterwards.

Mrs. Daisy Young Holcomb told about Springdale's first post office, called Lynch's Prairie in 1859, with Albert Gregg as postmaster.

Mrs. A.A. Hamblen of Walnut Grove told of a childhood visit she made to the Crow Indian Reservation in Montana, where her uncle, J. Van Hoose was manager.

were reinstated and peace restored to the campus. In June President John N. Tillman resigned and Guy has always regretted his part in the trouble. Looking back, he thinks President Tillman was a good executive.

The 1912 strike at the University resulted from the suspension of 36 students, many of whom are now occupying prominent positions in business, politics, and other fields. The suspended 36 published several issues of a newspaper called The "X-Ray." This paper was printed on green paper and carried the slogan "Purification through exposure." Its editor was Guy Wolf. J.L. Newberry was business manager and E.F. Mills assistant business manager. Contributing editors were "the other thirty-three."

"The X-Ray", a six-column sheet, published articles about compulsory chapel, library rules, student discipline, the book store, and "About the Prof Who Considers Himself More Important Than His Position." Advertisers in the paper were J.L. Mitchell's men's store at 410 W. Dickson, Ozark Vaudeville Theater, O.L. Champion's Orpheum Theater, Washington Hotel, Red Cross Drug, and Duke Jewelry Company.

Washington County Historical Society

Membership Information and Application

For your membership in the Washington County Historical Society, you'll receive *FLASHBACK* our quarterly publication featuring Washington County's history, historical articles about family and public life in the area; and *FLASHFORWARD*, a quarterly newsletter covering current events and activities of the Society.

Annual membership dues are for the calendar year. They include the February, May, August and November issues of *FLASHBACK*. Membership amounts above the $25 family membership are tax-deductible. These donations, which are tax deductible by current law, are placed in the Headquarters House Annual Fund and will help maintain Headquarters House and other structures maintained by the Washington County Historical Society.

Please check the type of membership you prefer, fill out the information below and return this with appropriate check to Washington County Historical Society, 118 East Dickson Street, Fayetteville, AR 72701.

☐ $15 - Basic Membership

☐ $25 - Family Membership

☐ New Membership ☐ Renewal

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